

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS WITHOUT MARKINGS

IN THE DRAWING:

The sole Figure has been relabeled as Fig. 1.

Fig. 2 has been added.

REMARKS

The last Office Action of May 25, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Amendments to the specification have been made. No fee is due.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to because of applicant's failure to show every feature set forth in the claims. Drawing proposals showing the additions are submitted herewith and labeled "Replacement Sheet" and "New Sheet", respectively.

Claims 9, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,888,460 to Ambrefe, Jr..

Claims 1 and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ambrefe, Jr. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,367,552 to Peschmann.

Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ambrefe, Jr. in view of EP 5,367,552.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 2-4, 10 and 18 are indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, applicant wishes to defer amendments to these dependent claims in view of the arguments presented below regarding claims 1 and 9.

Applicant submits herewith a new Fig. 2 to show the features of claim 15. The specification has been amended to make it consistent with the amendments to the drawing. No new matter has been added. The previously unlabeled FIGURE has now been labeled as –Fig. 1–. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is thus respectfully requested.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) and 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

The Ambrefe, Jr. reference has a filing date which is not before the filing date of the German patent application upon which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). In order to perfect the claim of priority, applicant submits herewith a verified translation thereof. Accordingly, it is applicant's contention that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§102(e) and 103(a) in view of Ambrefe, Jr. has now been overcome.

Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the newly submitted claims. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

Applicant has made a cosmetic change to claim 1. to make it consistent with the disclosure. Reference is made to paragraph [0023] of the instant specification.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Henry M. Feiereisen
Agent For Applicant
Reg. No: 31,084

Date: August 25, 2005
350 Fifth Avenue
Suite 4714
New York, N.Y. 10118
(212)244-5500
HMF:be